

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-15 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS
APPROVED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS
S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)
NEA/EGY - MR. STERNER
EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE

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R 041945Z OCT 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
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USMISSION USUN NY

USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USINT BAGHDAD BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING
OCTOBER 4, 1973:

QUOTE: Q. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT CHANCELLOR KREISKY HAS
TURNED DOWN PRESIDENT NIXON'S APPEAL AND THE UNITED NATIONS,
APPARENTLY, HAS REJECTED THE IDEA OF A U.N. HIGH COMMISSION-
ER TAKING HOLD OF THE SCHOENAU CASTLE PROCESSING CENTER,
WHERE DOES THE MATTER NOW STAND WITH REGARD TO ANY U.S.
INITIATIVE?

A. WELL, THERE WAS NEVER THE PROMISE HELD OUT OF A U.S/
INITIATIVE IN THIS MATTER. THIS IS SOMETHING BETWEEN THE
PARTIES PRINCIPALLY CONCERNED. I CAN ONLY TELL YOU THAT WE
REMAIN HIGHLY INTERESTED IN A RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM,
ONE WHICH MEETS THE CONTINUED NEEDS OF THOSE EMIGRATING
FROM THE SOVIET UNION, AND I WOULD ALSO SAY THAT WE HOPE
THAT THERE IS A DETERMINED STANCE MAINTAINED AGAINST
TERRORIST BLACKMAIL.

Q. I DON'T FIND YOUR ANSWER VERY SATISFACTORY. THE UNITED
STATES HAS TAKEN A STRONG STAND, OR THE PRESIDENT HAS MADE
A STRONG STATEMENT CONCERNING THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF
AUSTRIA IN THIS MATTER, WHILE NOT INTERFERING DIRECTLY,
BUT NEVERTHELESS A STRONG STATEMENT. AND THEN YOU SIMPLY
SAY IT IS A MATTER BETWEEN THE PARTIES, AND WE HAVE NEVER
HELD OUT ANY PROMISE OF DOING ANYTHING ABOUT IT. IT SEEMS
TO ME THAT THOSE ARE NOT COMPATIBLE STATEMENTS. WE
OBVIOUSLY, IT WOULD SEEM TO ME, WOULD BE MORE THAN JUST
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INTERESTED AND WOULD BE SEEKING OR HELPING TO BRING ABOUT
A SOLUTION TO THIS.

A. WELL, THANK YOU FOR CALLING TO MY ATTENTION THE
IMPRESSION YOU GOT OF MY REMARKS. OBVIOUSLY WE ARE NOT
INDIFFERENT. OBVIOUSLY WE ARE ENGAGED IN THE EFFORT TO
ASSIST IN THIS EMIGRATION. WE HAVE GONE OVER THIS IN
GREAT DETAIL, PROVIDING YOU WITH FACTS AND FIGURES OF OUR

ROLE IN IT. I'M JUST SAYING THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NOT IN A POSITION NOW TO BE RECOMMENDING ALTERNATIVES OR SOLUTIONS.

Q. I HEARD THAT --.

A. FOR THOSE PRINCIPALLY CONCERNED.

Q. UNDER THE TERMS OR DEFINITIONS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, THESE JEWISH PEOPLE, DO THEY FALL INTO THE CATEGORY OF REFUGEES OR JUST EMIGRANTS, OR PEOPLE WHO ARE LEAVING ONE COUNTRY TO GO TO ANOTHER? ARE THEY REFUGEES?

A. I SUPPOSE THE PRECISE DEFINITION THERE CAN GET US INTO QUITE A TECHNICAL DISCUSSION, BUT I WOULD CATEGORIZE THEM AS EMIGRES.

Q. THESE DISCUSSIONS -- THESE CONSULTATIONS THAT WE'RE HOLDING WITH OTHER COUNTRIES ABOUT THE AUSTRIAN ISSUE -- IS THAT BEING DONE ONLY IN WASHINGTON OR IS IT BEING DONE AT OUR EMBASSIES ABROAD?

A. BOTH.

Q. AND AT THE UNITED NATIONS AS WELL?

A. OH, I'M SURE IT'S A SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION THERE.

Q. NOW, LET ME BACK INTO THE QUESTION OF EGYPT A LITTLE BIT. DOES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT GUARANTEE PROGRAM -- COULD THAT BE APPLICABLE TO THE BECHTEL CORPORATION CONTRACT WITH THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PIPELINE?

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A. WELL, THAT WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER WE HAVE A VALID INVESTMENT-GUARANTEE AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT, AND I JUST DON'T KNOW WHETHER WE DO OR NOT. I CAN CHECK IT. I HAVE NOT THOUGHT TO RAISE THAT QUESTION.

Q. I IMAGINE CREDITS CAN BE PROVIDED THROUGH THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK, REGARDLESS OF THE STATE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

A. THAT'S CORRECT.

Q. NOW, WHAT SURPRISES ME HERE IS THAT THE PRESIDENT SPOKE ABOUT TERRORISM BEING THE CENTRAL POINT IN THE AUSTRIAN ISSUE. BOB MENTIONED IT YESTERDAY. YOU MENTION

IT TODAY. AND YET WHEN I ASKED THE QUESTION ABOUT WHAT IS OUR VIEW OF THE EGYPTIANS FORMALLY, OFFICIALLY, APPROVING THE TERRORIST RAID IN AUSTRIA, THERE WAS NO COMMENT -- SAID RATHER ANGRILY, I THOUGHT.

NOW, WHERE DO WE STAND ON THINGS LIKE THAT? ARE WE AGAINST TERRORISM IN ALL FORMS BY ALL THOSE WHO APPROVE IT?

A. IF YOU'RE ASKING ME THE QUESTION YOU ASKED BOB MCCLOSKEY YESTERDAY, YOU HAVE THE SAME ANSWER.

Q. WELL, WHERE DO WE STAND ON TERRORISM IN REFERENCE TO THIS? WHY ARE WE SAYING "NO COMMENT" WHEN A COUNTRY APPROVES TERRORISM?

A. THE SAME ANSWER. END QUOTE. RUSH

NOTE BY OCT: POUCHED BAGHDAD AND SANAA.

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